



Across the Barricades/Joan Lingard

A play in 10 scenes by 4a, 2017/18

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Scene 1: Situation in Belfast- Fiona

Text from <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kR11vn41XU>

It all began when Northern Ireland gained its independence from Britain.

As the majority of Northern Ireland were Protestants they remained under Britain.

Over the years after their independence the Protestants secured the best living standards.

This caused provocation among the Catholics.

In the 1960s the Troubles began.

Catholic marches were met with violence from militant Protestants.

1972- 14 Catholics were killed by soldiers from the British army during a peaceful demonstration march.

The fights escalated and bombs, violence and killings became the everyday life of Northern Irish citizens.

Years later- there was still no winner of the conflict.

They worked for a reconciliation and in 1998 a peace agreement was signed.

In 2005 the IRA handed in their weapons.

The Protestant Loyalists did not.

Today Northern Ireland is relatively peaceful.

There is still a clear division between the two religious groups.

It is often showed by wall paintings.

Some places are separated by a peace wall, for safety.

Scene 2: Felix, Clemens

Prologue from *Romeo&Juliet* adapted for *Across the Barricades*

Two parties, both alike in dignity,
In fair Belfast, where we lay our scene,
From ancient grudge break to new mutiny,
Where civil blood makes civil hands unclean.
From forth the fatal loins of these two foes
A pair of star-cross'd lovers start their life;
Whose misadventur'd piteous overthrows Doth not succeed to bury their parents' strife.
The fearful passage of their painful love.
And the continuance of their parents' rage, even their children's love nought could remove,
Is now the coming traffic of our stage;
The which if you with patient ears attend,
What here shall miss, our toil shall strive to mend.

To see what a prologue is, check the internet and listen to an example here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T3PIhGRtWTs>

Scene 3: Theresa, Stefan, Christina J.

Kevin and Sadie meet for the first time, Linda sees them

S: Hey Kevin. Is it you?

K: Omg, Sadie Jackson. Haven't seen you in years! What are you doing here in Belfast?

S: Well obviously I still live here. But, for how long haven t we seen each other?

K: I don't know. Maybe 3 or 4 years.

S: Hmm, seems so.

K: And what have you been up to in that time?

S: Nothing much. I've just finished school and started working at a hat store. You?

K: Oh you know just some boring stuff. I've started working at a scrapyard. At Mr Kelly's. You know him, right?

S: Yea, I do....I see. What about your sister Brede? Does she still help your mother as much as in the past?

K: Yes, she is very reliable and helps my mum in the household and with my siblings.

S: Ah that's amazing I wish....

L: Oh hey Sadie!

S: Hey Linda...

L: What are you doing out here?

S: Well you know just hanging out.

L: And who is he? Wait, I think I've seen you before.

S: Everybody has seen him before Linda. He's a well-known man in town.

L: Oh you...! Ah! I know who you are, you're Kevin right?! And you're a ...(Catholic)

S: Yes, he is Kevin, and yea you're right with saying he's a Catholic. Please just don't worry about it.

L: Okay (strange looking)... well I have to go see my friends now, my Protestant friends,...Sadie I think you should come with me!

S: I don't think so. I'm good with staying here. You don't have to be concerned about me.
But thanks anyways

L: Alright ...well see you then.

Scene 4: Christina H., Leonie, David, Elias, Oskar

Kevin comes home, reaction of his family

Characters: Kevin, Mr McCoy, Mrs McCoy, Brede, Brother

Setting: 1st part: Kitchen, 2nd part corridor

Part 1:

(MSC, MMC, B, Br sitting in the kitchen)

MSC: Kevin isn't home yet. I'm so worried about him.

MMC: Do you know where he is?

Br: Why do you think I know that? Never mind he will be ok.

MMC: Don't be so rude!

B: How can you be so careless? He has never been late for dinner yet.

Br: He's not a little child anymore. That's normal. You're such a coward.

MMC: Stop arguing!

MSC: Go to bed now!

BaBr: *(mumbling, irritated):* Why?

MSCaMMC *(shouting):* Go!!!

(B and Br go out of the room)

MSC: I hope nothing bad happened to him.

MMC: Come on darling. I'm sure he will be home soon.

Part 2 (Half an hour after that):

(Kevin comes in slowly and without any noises, BaBr notice him and go into the corridor) B:

Kevin!!!

Br: Shhhht! Don't talk so loudly or do you want that mum and dad hear us?

B: Kevin, where have you been?

K: I don't know if I could tell you that.

Br: You can trust us, we won't tell.

K: You know, I was out with that Protestant girl, Sadie Jackson.

Br: How could you? Traitor *(loud)*

(meanwhile in the kitchen)

MMC: Have you heard that?

MSC: What could that be?

MMC: Is that Kevin?

MSC: Let's take a look.

(both go into the corridor)

MMC: What in god's name are you doing here?

MSC: Kevin! You're back!

MMC: What were you doing?

K *(trying to lie):* I have missed ...am... the last bus so I ...am... had to walk home on my own.

Br: This traitor here has met with a Protestant girl. He's such an idiot.

MMC: You did what?

MSC *(disappointed):* Is that really true Kevin?

K: Yes mum, I did.

WMC *(angry):* That will have serious consequences. Go to bed now!

Scene 5: Lara, Hannah, Maria B, Rebekka

Sadie comes home, reaction of her family

Mum: Dinner's ready!

Father: Is Sadie still not here?

Mum: She's not here? ^{But} We have to wait for her!

Father: I can't wait!

Tommy: Why?

Father: Because you and me are going to the Orange Lodge today.

Tommy: I've never been to the Lodge before and I will never go to the Lodge. When will you finally get that?

Father: Uhh....

Mum: Stop arguing!

Sadie: Hello!

Mum + Father: Sadie.....

Mum: Where have you been?

Sadie: I was just at work like every day.

Tommy: They already know everything.

Father: What were you up to with that catholic boy?

Sadie: What do you mean?

Mum: You know exactly what your father means.

Father: ^{your friend} Linda told us!

Sadie: You believe that ~~egit~~ more than you believe me?

Mum: How can you talk about such a nice girl like that.

Tommy: Now you should tell them!

Sadie: Uhh... frie. I was out with Kevin McCoy.

Mum: What do ^{you} expect from the relationship with that catholic idiot?

Father: Do you really wanna end up like a catholic woman!

Tommy: They have plenty of children and have to cook all day long

Sadie: Uhh...

Father: And all the housework they have to do!

Mum: And you can't go to work, you are stuck at home all your life!

Father: We just want the best for our only daughter!

Tommy: And do you know how much trouble this will cause ~~with a catholic boy~~.

Mum: Everyone will hate you.

Sadie: I am not hungry anymore.

Mum: Sadie wait!!

Father: We will deal with her tomorrow.
I've to go to ~~the lodge~~ now. Bye

Tommy: I'm going to my room now.

Mum: My poor food (crying)

Scene 6: Sophie, Michi

Kevin and Sadie meet at the beach in Bangor and talk about the past, their religion and fall even more in love

Love Scene

S: It's been such a good idea to come here to the beach.

K: ~~It's~~ It's so beautiful here.

S: The sun is gonna set soon. It's

~~It's~~ gonna be romantic. I like it here.

K: Me too, ~~it's~~ I'm so glad it's just the two of us, and no one else is bothering us.

S: I don't understand why everybody is against our ~~love~~ relationship.

K: Well neither, there is no difference between Catholics and Protestants.

S: I don't get it either.

K: I can only think of the one thing... your eyes, they just look like the sea.

S: Ohh... it's getting hot, ice cream?

Do you want some ice cream?

Scene 7: *fight*- Rudi, Pepi, Kathi, Sara, Emma, Niko?, Sebastian?

That's what you get for dating a Protestant girl! TRAITOR!

Scene 8: Marielie, Jasmin +?

Kevin (limping) and Sadie meet Mrs. Blake and tell him how people want to keep them apart. Mrs. Blake offers help.

Sadie: Hey Kevin how are you? What ^{has} happened with your leg
you're limping.

K: ~~My friend~~ Hey my dear. My friends ^{have} ~~had~~ beaten me up
but only my leg hurts a bit.

S: Oh that's bad. Was it my fault again?

K: ^{Ah no.} Yes but don't worry. (gehen)

S: Hey Mr. Blake! How are you today? I haven't seen
you for so long. Kevin, this was my English teacher in
6th and 7th grade.

Mrs B: Oh hey Sadie! Nice to see you. Is every OK?
Is this your brother ~~Tommy~~?

S: No ^{he} ~~this~~ is not Tommy.

K: I'm Sadie's boyfriend, but keep it as a secret.

Mrs B: Why?

S: The thing is he is a Catholic and I'm a Protestant.
~~Mr~~ Our families are against our ~~relationship~~
'cause they don't like each other.

Mrs B: Oh I know. I had the same problem years ago
with my ~~et~~ ^{first} love. Our parents were against
our relationship ~~be~~ also because of her
religion.

K: Yeah it's very hard to keep our love as a secret.

Mrs B.: Do you want to meet each other ~~at~~ at my
home ~~and there you can meet without any~~
danger.

S: Oh how nice! Thank you.

K: Thank you, ^{we} will ~~except~~ think about it.

Mrs B.: Let's have a coffee.

Scene 9: Sara, Moritz

Sadie (desperate, sobbing) tells Kevin about the killing of Mr Blake, he decides to leave and tells Sadie

Sadie & Kevin meet

Moritz + Sara

S: *crying*

K: What happened, Sadie? Why are you crying?

S: Mrs. Blake...

K: What?

S: She got killed...

K: What???

S: Someone threw a bomb into her house.

K: What? I can't believe that...

S: But it's true!

K: She was the only person who understood us & helped us in every situation.

S: Now we can't meet in her house anymore. It was the only place where we could be alone.

K: You know what... I'm going to England to start a new life. Will you come with me?

S: I have to think about it, because I can't leave my family alone.

Scene 10: Maria, Jana

Last scene at the docks: Sadie comes to join Kevin on the ship

LAST SCENE AT THE DOCKS : SADIE COMES TO JOIN KEVIN ON THE SHIP.

(Sadie runs towards Kevin and gives him a hug.)

K So you managed to come and see me off?

S Did you think I wouldn't?

K No.

S Anyway, I haven't come to see you off. I'm coming with you.....!

K Wow, that's the best news I've had in months. Hey, everything right with you?

S Yeah, I just left my family without saying goodbye....

K I understand your situation, but I can't stay at this place a minute longer.

S Me too. Come on, we shouldn't wait here any longer, otherwise we'll miss our boat to London.

K Yes, you are right! But where is your luggage?

S I couldn't walk out of the house with a large bag, could I now

K That's right. Let's go then....

S & K Goodbye Belfast!